

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

# PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

## WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
see form PCT/ISA/220

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**  
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.  
PCT/JP2005/007576

International filing date (day/month/year)  
14.04.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)  
14.04.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
B41J2/175

Applicant  
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1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

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1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
  - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material:
    - ☐ a sequence listing
    - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material:
    - ☐ in written format
    - ☐ in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing:
    - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
    - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
    - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

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**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(I) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

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**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	9
	No: Claims	1-8, 10-17
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-17
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-17
	No: Claims	

**2. Citations and explanations**

**see separate sheet**

**Re Item V:**

- 1 The application does not meet the requirements of Art. 6 PCT, because claims 1, 4 and 5 are not clear, for the following reasons:
  - 1.1 The following essential feature is missing from claim 1: that the engage reference portion has the form of a groove (see description p. 11 lin. 17-20, Guidelines 5.33). At present the engage reference portion is only an abstract point, without any particular physical meaning.
  - 1.2 In claim 1 "installed" should read "installable" (lin. 3), in claim 4 "inserted" should read "insertable", and in claim 5 "rotated" should read "rotatable". At present in claim 1 it is not clear whether the ink cartridge alone, or a combination of it and an inkjet printing apparatus, is claimed (see also the Guidelines 5.37); in claims 4 and 5 the reference to method steps renders the category of the claim unclear.
- 2 Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US 2003/156171 A1 (YAMAGUCHI YUKUO ET AL) 21 August 2003 (2003-08-21).
- 3 The subject-matter of claims 1-8 and 10-17, as far as it can be understood (cf. §1 above), is not new (Article 33(2) PCT).

*Claim 1:*

D1 discloses (see in particular fig. 1, 3 and 9) an ink cartridge installable in an inkjet printing apparatus printable by use of an inkjet head, and connectable to an ink supply route of the inkjet head, comprising: an engage reference portion serving as a reference position in installing the ink cartridge in the inkjet printing apparatus; and a joint section (23) positioned in the proximity of a side surface of the ink cartridge and connectable to the ink supply route, wherein the distance between the joint section and the engage reference portion is shorter than that between the side surface and the engage reference portion.

In fig. 3 between "19a" and "24", there are several groove-shaped portions.

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Furthermore any point on the surface of the cartridge can be seen as an engage reference portion (see §1 above).

*Claims 2-8 and 10-17:*

The subject-matter of claims 2-8 and 10-17 is also known from D1 (eg the hole of claim 13 is the hole for feeding ink to the inkjet head).

- 4 The subject-matter of claim 9 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT, the reasons being as follows:

In claim 9 slight changes are defined which come within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art, especially as the advantages thus achieved can readily be foreseen. For the skilled person to have for eg 3 colors three cartridges or one cartridge with three ink storing sections, are equally likely alternatives (see also the Guidelines 13.14(e)(i)). Consequently, the subject-matter of claim 9 lacks an inventive step.